

Moran Supports Defense Department Authorization

Bill Supports Local Soldiers and Their Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. This legislation, which lays the ground work for the defense appropriations process, includes several provisions that would increase military pay and improve housing on military bases in Kansas.

"None of our recent military successes or the freedom we enjoy in our country would be possible without our troops," Moran said. "This bill takes important steps to recognize their service by providing a significant pay raise and housing allowances to enlisted troops and officers, as well as provide better programs for our Kansas National Guard and Reserve personnel. We must continue to do more to take care of our troops and their families."

The Defense Authorization Act includes an average 4.1 percent pay raise for military personnel. It also reduces the out-of-pocket housing expenses for troops from 7.5 percent to 3.5 percent, with a reduction to zero percent by 2005.

In addition, the legislation includes \$16.7 million to update family housing projects and \$40 million for construction of new barracks on the Fort. This will allow the Fort to improve existing

housing structures, as well as construct new facilities to accommodate troops.

"I will continue to work to see that pay increase and housing provisions are included in the final appropriations process later this year," Moran concluded.

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